

# Brad Little

**Bradley Jay Little** (born February 15, 1954) is an American politician serving as the 33rd Governor of Idaho since January 2019. A member of the Republican Party, he previously served as the 42nd Lieutenant Governor of Idaho from 2009 to 2019. Little served in the Idaho Senate from 2001 to 2009 where he chaired the majority caucus and represented Legislative Districts 8 and 11 (change due to redistricting in 2002).<sup>[1]</sup> He won the 2018 gubernatorial election against Democratic nominee *Paulette Jordan*,<sup>[2]</sup> the seventh straight gubernatorial victory for the Republican Party in Idaho.

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## Early life and education



Little at his 2011 inauguration, with U.S. Senator Jim Risch and their wives

Little was born and raised in Emmett, Idaho and graduated from Emmett High School in 1972.<sup>[3]</sup> He attended the University of Idaho in Moscow,<sup>[4]</sup> was a member of the Idaho Alpha chapter of Phi Delta Theta fraternity,<sup>[5]</sup><sup>[6]</sup> and earned a bachelor's degree in agri-business in 1976.

## Career

Little has had an extensive dual career tending to his family's ranching interests (his grandfather was the "Idaho Sheep King")<sup>[3]</sup> and in public service. During the 1981 and 1985 legislative sessions, Little represented his father, David Little, in the senate on a temporary appointment due to illness, during which time he served on the Finance and Resources Committees.<sup>[7]</sup>

Little also managed his family's ranching operation, Little Land and Livestock, for almost thirty years until his son, David, became manager in 2009 when Little was appointed lieutenant governor.<sup>[8]</sup> He continues to work as the head of Little Enterprises, Inc. (a diversified farming and cattle operation), and is currently a member of the board of directors of Performance Design Inc. – a small Boise-based manufacturing company.<sup>[8]</sup>

Little has also been involved in a variety of private organizations and companies based in Idaho and the Mountain West. Little is a former chairman of the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry (IACI), "The Voice of Business in Idaho", and was a member of its board for twenty years (1981–2001).<sup>[9]</sup> Little is also the former vice-chairman of the Idaho Community Foundation and the Emmett Public School Foundation, and the former director of the Idaho Wool Growers Association and the University of Idaho Foundation.<sup>[8]</sup><sup>[10]</sup><sup>[11]</sup> He has also served in the past on the board of directors of Home Federal Bank, a small Idaho-based regional bank recently acquired by Bank of the Cascades, High Country News, and the Idaho Foundation for Excellence in Education.<sup>[12]</sup><sup>[13]</sup>

### State Senator (2001–2009)

Little was appointed by Governor Dirk Kempthorne to fill a state senate vacancy in May 2001, and represented what was at the time District 8, which covered a part of Gem County surrounding and north of Emmett, and all of Boise, Valley, and Adams counties, and the southern portion of Idaho County.<sup>[14]</sup><sup>[15]</sup>

Following a change in district boundaries due to redistricting in 2001–2002, Little was elected in the fall of 2002 to District 11, which then encompassed all of Gem County and the northern portion of Canyon County, including the communities of Middleton and Parma.<sup>[16]</sup><sup>[17]</sup>

Little was subsequently reelected senator from the 11th legislative district four times.<sup>[18]</sup><sup>[19]</sup><sup>[20]</sup>

Little was also elected in 2003 by his Republican peers to the party leadership position of Majority Caucus Chair, which he held until 2009.<sup>[21]</sup>

Brad Little



33rd Governor of Idaho

**Incumbent**

**Assumed office**

January 7, 2019

**Lieutenant** *Janice McGeachin*

**Preceded by** *Butch Otter*

**42nd Lieutenant Governor of Idaho**

**In office**

January 6, 2009 – January 5, 2019

**Governor** *Butch Otter*

**Preceded by** *Jim Risch*

**Succeeded by** *Janice McGeachin*

**Member of the Idaho Senate from the 11th district**

**In office**

December 1, 2002 – January 5, 2009

**Preceded by** *Patti Anne Lodge*

**Succeeded by** *Melinda Smyser*

**Member of the Idaho Senate from the 8th district**

**In office**

May 24, 2001 – December 1, 2002

**Preceded by** *Judy Danielson*

**Succeeded by** *Skip Brandt*

#### Personal details

**Born**

February 15, 1954

Emmett, Idaho, U.S.

**Political party** ***Republican***

**Spouse(s)** ***Teresa Little (m. after 1978)***

**Children**

**2**

**Alma mater** ***University of Idaho (BS)***

**Signature**

**

**Website**

***Government website (http://gov.idaho.gov)***

### Committee assignments

- Agricultural Affairs 2002
- Resources and Environment 2002
- State Affairs 2003-2009
- Resources & Environment 2003-2009
- Transportation 2003-2009
- Economic Outlook
- Revenue Assessment

### State Senator from District 11: 2002 results<sup>[22][23]</sup>

Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Republican Party	Votes	Pct
Brad Little	3,865	72.1	Mike Pullin	1,498	27.9

Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Independent	Votes	Pct
Brad Little	8,478	76.2	John Steinebach	2,646	23.8

### State Senator from District 11: 2004 results<sup>[24][25]</sup>

Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Republican Party	Votes	Pct
Brad Little	3,402	65.00	Steven Thayn	1,398	26.71	Walter Bayes	434	8.29

Republican Party	Votes	Pct
Brad Little	13,533	100.00

### State Senate from District 11: 2006 results<sup>[26][27]</sup>

Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Constitution Party	Votes	Pct
Brad Little	10,090	77.05	Jared Easley	3,006	22.95

### State Senate from District 11: 2008 results<sup>[28][29]</sup>

Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Independent	Votes	Pct
Brad Little	14,870	77.5	Kirsten Faith Richardson	4,309	22.5

## Lieutenant Governor of Idaho (2009–2019)

### Appointment, election and reelection

In January 2009, Governor Butch Otter appointed Little to the office of Lieutenant Governor to fill the vacancy left by former Lt. Governor Jim Risch's election to the U.S. Senate in the 2008 election cycle. Little was sworn in by Otter on January 6, 2009, and confirmed by unanimous consent when the Idaho Senate convened on January 12, 2009.<sup>[30][31]</sup>

Little was subsequently elected Lieutenant Governor in 2010, defeating two opponents in the primary election, and two opponents from the Democratic and Constitution parties in the general election.<sup>[32][33]</sup> He was re-elected Lieutenant Governor in 2014.

Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: 2010 results<sup>[34]</sup>

Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Republican Party	Votes	Pct
Brad Little	95,758	67.6	Joshua Blessinger	26,808	18.9	Steven Dana Pankey	19,096	13.5

Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Democratic Party	Votes	Pct	Constitution Party	Votes	Pct
Brad Little	299,979	67.8%	Eldon Wallace	120,174	27.2%	Paul Venable	22,007	5.0%

Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: 2014 results<sup>[35]</sup>

Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Republican Party	Votes	Pct
Brad Little	96,780	66.8	Jim Chmielek	48,099	33.2

Republican Party	Votes	Pct	Democratic Party	Votes	Pct	Constitution Party	Votes	Pct
Brad Little	271,268	62.8%	Bert Marley	141,917	32.9%	David Hartigan	18,705	4.3%

### Economic development and trade missions



Little presiding over the Idaho Senate in 2011

Little focused on economic development as lieutenant governor,<sup>[36]</sup> for example helping to persuade energy bar producer Clif Bar & Company to build a new food manufacturing plant in the state in 2013.<sup>[37]</sup>

Little also took part in and led several trade missions. He led a Friendship Mission to Basque Country in Spain in 2010, during which he met President of the Basque Government Patxi López. During this meeting, Little and López agreed to establish a Basque Economic Development Office in Boise, Idaho, which "would provide resources and services for Idaho and Basque companies to ease collaboration on research, sales and collaborative programs."<sup>[38]</sup> Little later signed the Euskadi-Idaho Friendship Agreement, which affirms the friendship and cultural affinity between the Basque Country and Idaho, which is the residence of the largest Basque community outside of Spain itself.<sup>[39]</sup>

Little was also a member of a 2011 Idaho trade delegation which traveled to Mexico and Brazil.<sup>[40]</sup> Little commented after the trade mission that "we found tremendous interest and opportunities in both countries for Idaho products and services ... This trip strengthened key trade relationships and established new customers for Idaho businesses." The Idaho Department of Commerce estimated that the mission resulted in sales of more than \$30 million.<sup>[41]</sup>

Legislation

In the 2014 legislative session, Little sponsored Senate Bill 1354, an anti-"patent troll" bill. The bill protects companies from abusive or "bad faith assertions of patent infringement" to collect an extortionate licensing fee.<sup>[42][43][44]</sup>

Governor of Idaho (2019–present)

2018 election

In June 2016, Little announced his candidacy for the Idaho gubernatorial election in 2018.<sup>[45][46]</sup> He said that Idaho National Laboratory will be a priority if he becomes governor.<sup>[47]</sup>

Little was endorsed by incumbent Governor Butch Otter,<sup>[48]</sup> former governors Dirk Kempthorne and Phil Batt, and U.S. Senator Jim Risch.<sup>[49]</sup>

During his campaign, Little called for a phased-in \$350 million reduction in the state income tax and the elimination of the Idaho grocery tax.<sup>[50]</sup>

Little won the Idaho Republican Party primary, beating both Congressman Raúl Labrador and businessman Tommy Ahlquist with 37.3% of the vote.<sup>[51]</sup> In the general election in November, he defeated state Representative Paulette Jordan, the Idaho Democratic Party nominee,<sup>[52]</sup> by over 130,000 votes.

In March 2020, during the coronavirus pandemic, Little gained attention for signing two bills into law that targeted the rights of transgender individuals.<sup>[53]</sup> The first bans transgender women and girls from competing in women's sports, citing possible unfair physical advantages. The second bill, HB 509, bans transgender people from changing the sex on their birth certificates, and violates a federal court ruling from 2018.<sup>[54][55][56]</sup>

Idaho gubernatorial elections: 2018

Year	Democratic	Votes	Pct	Republican	Votes	Pct	3rd Party	Party	Votes	Pct	3rd Party	Party	Votes
2018	<u>Paulette Jordan</u>	231,081	38.2%	<b>Brad Little</b>	361,661	59.8%	Bev "Angel" Boeck	Libertarian	6,551	1.1%	Walter L. Bays	<u>Constitution</u>	5,787

Idaho Gubernatorial Republican primary election, 2018				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	
Republican	<b>Brad Little</b>	<b>72,518</b>	<b>37.3</b>	
Republican	Raúl Labrador	63,460	32.6	
Republican	Tommy Ahlquist	50,977	26.2	
Republican	Lisa Marie	3,390	1.7	
Republican	Steve Pankey	2,701	1.4	
Republican	Harley Brown	874	0.4	
Republican	Dalton Cannady	528	0.3	
Total votes		194,448	100.0	

Personal life

Little married Teresa Soulen of Weiser in May 1978, and they have two sons and five grandchildren.<sup>[8]</sup>

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## External links

- Official government site (<http://gov.idaho.gov/>)
- Official campaign Site (<http://www.bradlittleforidaho.com/>)
- Appearances (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?bradlittle>) on C-SPAN

Political offices		
Preceded by <b>Jim Risch</b>	<b>Lieutenant Governor of Idaho</b> 2009–2019	Succeeded by <b>Janice McGeachin</b>
Preceded by <b>Butch Otter</b>	<b>Governor of Idaho</b> 2019–present	<b>Incumbent</b>
Party political offices		
Preceded by <b>Butch Otter</b>	<b>Republican nominee for Governor of Idaho</b> 2018	<b>Most recent</b>
U.S. order of precedence (ceremonial)		
Preceded by <b>Mike Pence</b> <i>as Vice President</i>	<b>Order of Precedence of the United States</b> Within Idaho	Succeeded by <b>Mayor of city</b> In which event is held
Preceded by <b>Jay Inslee</b> <i>as Governor of Washington</i>	<b>Order of Precedence of the United States</b> Outside Idaho	Succeeded by <b>Otherwise Nancy Pelosi</b> <i>Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives</i>
Preceded by <b>Jay Inslee</b> <i>as Governor of Washington</i>	<b>Order of Precedence of the United States</b> Outside Idaho	Succeeded by <b>Mark Gordon</b> <i>as Governor of Wyoming</i>

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